R-[(EO)n-(PO)m]k-T

wherein

EO represents an ethyleneoxy group;

PO represents a propyleneoxy group;

T represents an OH group or SO<sub>3</sub>M wherein M represents a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal, an inorganic base, or an organic amine;

m and n are each an integer;

k is a natural number of not less than 1; and

R represents

a  $C_{4-10}$  branched or straight chain alkyl group or a group comprising Ra bonded to a  $C_{4-10}$  branched or straight chain alkyl group, wherein Ra represents a group represented by the following formula:

T-[(PO)m'-(EO)n']k-

wherein

EO, PO, T and k each are as defined above; and

n' and m' are respectively n and m,

EO and PO being arranged, regardless of order in the parentheses, randomly or as blocks joined together,

n or n+n' being 1 to 10 with m or m+m' being 0 to 5 when n and m and n' and m' are expressed in terms of the average value for the mixture of compounds represented by formula (I) contained in the ink.



Claim 2 (amended) The ink according to claim 1, wherein the compounds, represented by formula (I), constituting the mixture each are such that T represents an OH group.

B

Claim 3 (amended) The ink according to claim 1, wherein the compounds, represented by formula (I), constituting the mixture each are such that T represents an OH group.

Claim 5 (amended) The ink according to claim 1, wherein the compounds, represented by formula (I), constituting the mixture each are such that EO represents –CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O-, PO represents –CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)-CH<sub>2</sub>O-, and T represents an OH group, R, EO, PO, and T being attached to one another in that order to represent formula R-(EO)n-(PO)m-T.

Claim 6 (amended) The ink according to claim 1, wherein the mixture of compounds represented by formula (I) is composed of:

a compound represented by formula (I) wherein T represents an OH group, R, EO, PO, and T being attached to one another in that order to represent formula R-(EO)n-(PO)m-T; and

a compound represented by formula (I) wherein T represents an OH group, R, EO, PO, and T being attached to one another in that order to represent formula R-(PO)m-(EO)n-T.



Claim 10 (amended) The ink according to claim 1, wherein R represents a straight-chain  $C_{ij}C_{10}$  group.

Please add the following new claim: